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CAPRIVI STRIP AIRFIELD
SOUTH-WEST AFRICA

1. SIGNIFICANCE: THE LARGE AIRFIELD RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP OF SOUTH-WEST AFRICA IS NEARING COMPLETION.

2. REMARKS: THIS AIRFIELD IS BEING BUILT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AS AN "EMERGENCY LANDING STRIP." HOWEVER, VARIOUS COLLATERAL REPORTS, THE AIRFIELD'S SIZE, AND ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION BORDERING ON ANGOLA, ZAMBIA, BECHUANALAND, AND RHODESIA, SUGGEST THAT THE AIRFIELD MAY BE INTENDED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. WHEN COMPLETED, FACILITIES AT THIS AIRFIELD WILL INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS, A WORK SHOP, AND TWELVE 5,000 GALLON FUEL TANKS.

3. LOCATION: IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP, A FINGER OF LAND JUTTING EASTWARD FROM SOUTH-WEST AFRICA; APPROXIMATELY 9 NM SSW OF THE TOWN OF KATIMA MOLILO.

4. COLLATERAL: THE TERMS OF A LEAGUE OF NATIONS MANDATE UNDER WHICH SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNS THE TERRITORY OF SOUTH-WEST AFRICA, PROHIBIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF MILITARY BASES

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OR THE STATIONING OF TROOPS IN THE AREA. THE LEGALITY OF THIS MANDATE HAS RECENTLY BEEN CONTESTED BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, WHICH IS REVIEWING SOUTH AFRICA'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY.

ACCORDING TO THE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE CREW OF A RHODESIAN CIVIL AIR-

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CRAFT WHICH OVERFLEW THE CAPRIVI STRIP IN LATE SEPTEMBER, OBSERVED A SQUADRON OF SOUTH AFRICAN JET FIGHTERS AND SOME HEAVY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AT THE AIRFIELD. THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT BE ATTRIBUTED EITHER TO A TRAINING EXERCISE OR TO SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERN OVER THE RHODESIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. HOWEVER, ANY INDICATION OF MILITARY USE OF THIS AIRFIELD WOULD MOST LIKELY RAISE PROTESTS FROM OTHER AFRICAN STATES, POSSIBLY WITH SOME INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS.

5. FIRST IDENTIFICATION: [REDACTED]

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6. NEGATION DATE: NONE.7. SUBSEQUENT COVERAGE: NONE.

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8. DIMENSIONS/
SPECIFICATIONS: 7,525 X 130 FT ENE/WSW RUNWAY.

9. MISSION READOUT: THIS MISSION REVEALS A 7,525 X 130 FT ENE/WSW UNSERVICEABLE RUNWAY WITH A PARALLEL TAXIWAY, 2 END-CONNECTING LINKS AND 2 CROSS-OVER LINKS, 1 PARKING APRON, AND 2 ALERT APRONS. THE SURFACE MATERIAL OF THE RUNWAY AND CROSSOVER LINKS APPEARS TO BE WINDROWED, POSSIBLY INDICATING THE BLENDING OF AGGREGATE OR A BINDING MATERIAL PRIOR TO FINAL SURFACING.

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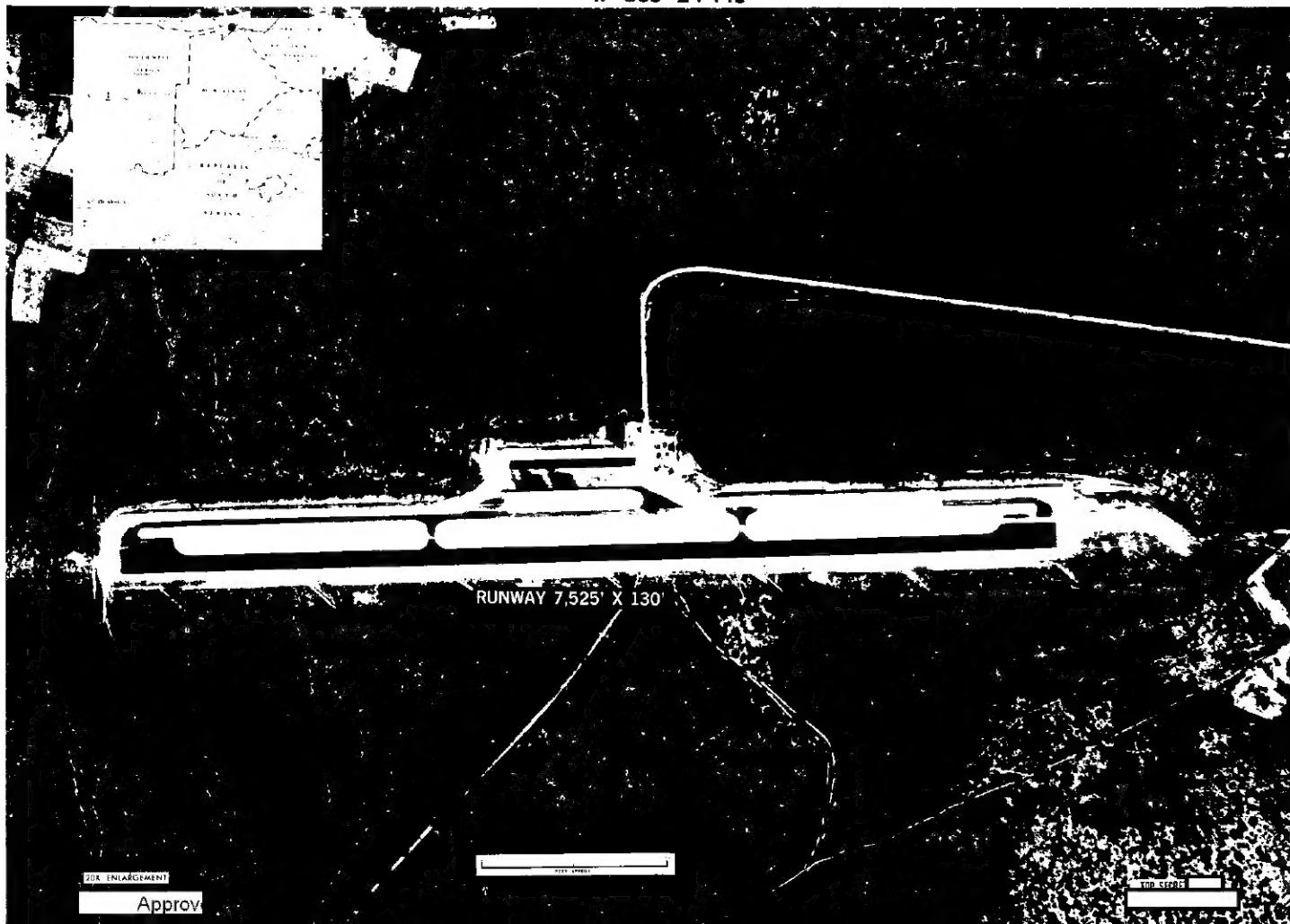
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